Air pollution due to vehicular emission

1323. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are monitoring the deteriorating pollution of urban environment due to vehicular emission;

(b) if not, reasons thereof;

(c) if so, the details of the trends during the last three years;

(d) whether the cities have been categorized on the basis of pollution;

(e) if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefore; and

(f) what steps are being taken to reduce the air pollution in urban centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) are regularly monitoring the ambient air quality at various locations of cities and towns under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme.

(c) As per the ambient air quality monitoring carried out by the CPCB, the annual average levels during last three years indicate that the levels of Sulphur dioxide and Nitrogen dioxide are within the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, whereas, Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter levels exceed the standards in most of the cities.

(d) and (e) Based on ambient air quality data, various non-attainment cities and towns have been identified by the CPCB and the concerned SPCBs have been requested to formulate action plan for control of air pollution in these cities. Action Plans have been prepared for controlling air pollution in sixteen critically polluted cities.

(f) The steps taken to abate air pollution include:

- Notification of general and source specific environmental standards;
- Identification of sources of pollution;
- Enforcement of auto exhaust emission standards for vehicles at manufacturing stage;
- Introduction of cleaner fuels and improved vehicular technologies;
- Implementation of Auto Fuel Policy;
- Use of beneficiated coal in thermal power plants; and
- Regular monitoring for environmental compliance.

Adverse effect of global warming on Himalayan Glacier

†1324. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Himalayas are melting due to adverse effect being caused due to global warming;

(b) whether it is also a fact that recent flood witnessed Sutlej river is an example of the same;

(c) if so, whether Government have conducted any study, so far, regarding such a situation to find out changes taking place at Himalayas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps Government contemplate in this regard in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) The studies carried out by Geological Survey of India have revealed that the majority of Himalayan glaciers are passing through a phase of recession, which is a worldwide phenomenon. The recession of glaciers is a part of the natural cyclic process of changes in size and other attributes of the glaciers. These changes could be attributed to various reasons including global warming.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.